

What's New in the MPDC

AUGUST 13, 2001

NEW SPEEDING REDUCTION PROGRAM BEGINS; PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS KICK IN

For people who speed aggressively in the District, the MPDC has a piece of advice: slow down. To back up that warning, the Department on Monday began generating actual speeding tickets under the District's new Photo Radar Speeding Reduction Program. Five specially designed Ford Crown Victorias began deployment in 60 enforcement zones throughout the District – areas where crash records, officer observation and community input have indicated a serious speeding problem. Over the coming months, the MPDC will measure the effectiveness of the new system in reducing the levels of dangerous speeding in these zones (anecdotal reports from the officers operating the vehicles indicate many drivers appear to be slowing down already). In addition to kicking off the program, the MPDC spent much of the week gearing up its public education efforts around photo radar. These included conducting numerous news media interviews, showing off the vehicles at National Night Out and other community events, and responding to criticism of the new public-safety program. For example, Chief Ramsey appeared on the "Today" show Thursday morning to debate the merits of photo enforcement with Lon Anderson of AAA Mid-Atlantic. AAA Mid-Atlantic continues to be a vocal critic of DC's program, despite the fact that its surveys show that two-thirds or more of area residents support photo radar and that photo enforcement has been demonstrated to reduce violations, prevent crashes and save lives. For complete information about DC's automated speed enforcement program, including a map showing the locations of the enforcement zones, visit:

As part of its public outreach and education efforts, the MPDC is inviting ANCs and community groups to request presentations on the new speeding reduction system. To request a presentation, call the MPDC's Traffic Safety Coordinator at 202-727-2001 or e-mail mpdc_org@excite.com.

Underscoring the seriousness of the speeding problem in the District, a 22-year-old Northwest man was killed Tuesday night on the Suitland Parkway, SE, when the speeding vehicle he was riding in spun out of control and crashed. This location is within one of the enforcement zones the MPDC is targeting through the use of photo radar. Read the news release on this latest speeding-related tragedy at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

www.mpdc.org (Click on Services & Programs)

OPERATION WATER WORKS HELPS TO KEEP DC COOL THIS WEEK

With oppressive temperatures in DC this past week, the MPDC activated its Operation Water Works program. When the DC Government declares a heat advisory alert, the MPDC loads up many of its cruisers with cool bottled water, which officers can then distribute to residents in need of hydration. The program is carried out in cooperation with 7-Eleven stores, which this year donated 10,000 bottles of water and 2,000 coupons for seven-pound bags of ice. Residents in need of a refreshing bottle of water during a heat advisory alert can simply flag down a police cruiser; if that vehicle doesn't have water, it can radio for one that does. Get more information on Operation Water Works at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Services & Programs)

NEW AGREEMENT MEANS EXPANDED POLICE PATROLS IN NEIGHBORHOODS AROUND FEDERAL BUILDINGS

The FPS joins four other federal police forces already working in DC neighborhoods under the Police Coordination Act. For more information about these agreements, including the expanded jurisdictions of the federal agencies, visit:

*www.mpdc.org
(Click on Services & Programs)*

Under an agreement signed this week, the Federal Protective Service (FPS) will be assisting the MPDC in patrolling some District neighborhoods, pursuant to the Police Coordination Act of 1997 spearheaded by DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. Once they complete training in DC Code and MPDC procedures, more than 150 uniformed federal police officers, who are stationed at approximately 60 federal agencies located in all quadrants of the District, will be able to patrol areas of the city near their agencies and make arrests

when needed. Almost every federal building in the District is covered by the FPS, and many – such as the State Department, Waterside Mall, the Washington Navy Yard, and the Anacostia Professional Building on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE – are located in residential and commercial neighborhoods. Read the news release announcing the agreement between the MPDC and the FPS at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

THINK BURGLARY PREVENTION IF YOU'RE TRAVELING THIS MONTH

If you're traveling during August (or any month, for that matter) ... think burglary prevention. Burglars know that many people take vacations this month, but there are some simple steps you can take to make your home a less attractive target. Basically, you want your home to look "lived in" while you're gone. That means not allowing newspapers or mail to pile up, having lights and small appliances come on from time to time, and keeping your yard maintained. For a complete list of burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year, click on:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Safety Tips)

Thanks to all DC residents who participated in Tuesday's National Night Out festivities! Events were well attended. New resources – such as the MPDC's Falcon One helicopter and photo radar vehicles – were on display. And new partnerships were formed. Mark your calendars: National Night Out 2002 is August 6th!

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
WWW.MPDC.ORG